

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. – 48. (Canceled)

49. (Currently Amended) A method of placing a telephone voice call over a public switched telephone network (PSTN) comprising the steps of:
providing a subscriber loop in communication with the PSTN, the subscriber loop having an analog telephone voice line and a digital data line, wherein the digital data line comprises a digital telephone voice line; and
placing a telephone voice call from a digital telephone in communication with the digital telephone voice line; and
sending the telephone voice call on the subscriber loop to the PSTN, wherein sending the telephone voice call from the digital telephone comprises converting an analog voice signal into a packetized digital data stream, [[and]] sending the packetized digital data stream over a subscriber data network to the digital telephone voice line, removing the packetized digital data stream from the subscriber loop and transmitting the packetized digital data stream to a switch in communication with the PSTN via a data network.

50. (Canceled)

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the step of converting the analog voice signal comprises converting the analog voice signal into a packetized digital data stream having an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) format.

52. (Canceled)

53. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 49 [[52]], wherein the step of transmitting the packetized digital data stream to a switch further

comprises transmitting the packetized digital data stream to a data access tandem switch, and converting a protocol of the packetized digital data stream to a protocol of the switch in communication with the PSTN, whereby the telephone voice call placed on the digital telephone is transmitted over the PSTN.

54. (Currently Amended) A telephone communication system comprising:

at least one digital telephone in communication with a digital telephone voice line on a digital data line; and

at least one POTS telephone in communication with an analog telephone line;

a network interface device connected to a subscriber loop, wherein the network interface device comprises a signal splitter configured to combine telephone voice signals received from the analog telephone line and digital data line onto the subscriber loop and separate telephone voice signals received from the subscriber loop onto an appropriate one of the analog telephone line and digital data line;

the subscriber loop carrying the digital data line and the analog telephone line on a common communication medium; and

a central office switch configured to communicate with the subscriber loop, the central office switch ~~having~~ comprising:

a splitter for separating signals on the subscriber loop into analog telephone line telephone voice signals and digital data line signals, wherein the digital data line signals comprise digital telephone voice line voice signals;

a local telephone switching device in communication with the splitter, the local telephone switching device configured to receive the analog telephone line voice signals for transmission over a public switched telephone network (PSTN); and

a digital subscriber line access multiplexer in communication with the splitter for multiplexing the digital data line signals into a format for transport over a data network;

and

a tandem location in communication with the data network, the tandem location having an interworking unit comprising a protocol switch configured to convert digital telephone line voice signals from the format for transport over the data network into a format for transport over the PSTN.

55. – 57. (Cancelled)

58. (Original) The invention of claim 54[[57]], wherein the format for transport over the PSTN comprises TR-303.

59. (Original) The invention of claim 54, wherein the common communication medium comprises a copper twisted pair.

60. (Currently Amended) A telephone communication system comprising:

at least one digital telephone in communication with a digital telephone voice line on a digital data line ~~The invention of claim 59,~~ wherein the digital data line ~~[[is]]~~ comprises an asymmetric digital subscriber line (ADSL) having an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) transmission protocol; and

at least one POTS telephone in communication with an analog telephone line;

a network interface device connected to a subscriber loop, wherein the network interface device comprises a signal splitter configured to combine telephone voice signals received from the analog telephone line and digital data line onto the subscriber loop and separate telephone voice signals received from the subscriber loop onto an appropriate one of the analog telephone line and digital data line;

the subscriber loop carrying the digital data line and the analog telephone line on a common communication medium comprising a copper twisted pair; and

a central office switch configured to communicate with the subscriber loop, the central office switch having a splitter for separating signals on the subscriber loop into analog telephone line telephone voice signals and digital data line signals, wherein the digital data line signals comprise digital telephone voice line voice signals.

61. (Original) The invention of claim 54, wherein the signal splitter of the network interface device comprises a low pass filter connected to the analog telephone line and a high pass filter connected to the digital data line, whereby the high pass filter is configured to pass an asymmetric digital subscriber line digital signal carrying a telephone voice call to the digital telephone and the low pass filter is configured to pass a POTS telephone call to the POTS telephone.